AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 1-44, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 45-88.

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Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-44 (Canceled)

Claim 45 (New).   A method of playing a modified twenty-one game between at

10 least one player and a dealer using one or more decks of cards and a table layout having a playing surface with a dealer position, a plurality of player positions, and a shared card position, comprising the steps of:

(a) each player placing an initial wager to participate in the game;

(b) dealing one or more cards to each player at the player's position;

(c) dealing one or more cards to the dealer at the dealer's position;

15 (d) dealing one or more unknown cards to the shared card position;

(e) dealing additional cards to players electing to receive more cards;

(f) allowing players to adjust the wager prior to receiving additional cards;

(g) dealing additional cards to the dealer following a fixed set of rules;

(h) revealing the shared cards after all player and dealer decisions are

20 completed;

(i) calculating the hand count of each player hand using the card values dealt to the player and the total value of the shared cards;

(j) calculating the hand count of the dealer hand using the card values dealt to the dealer and the total value of the shared cards;

(k) comparing the hand count of each player's hand to the hand count of the dealer's hand to determine whether each player beats the dealer, loses to the dealer or ties with the dealer;

(l) issuing awards to each player beating the dealer, according to an award schedule.

Claim 46 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which the range of minimum and maximum initial wagers is established by the gaming establishment.

Claim 47 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which one initial card is dealt to each player.

Claim 48 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which any initial cards dealt to a player are face-up.

Claim 49 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which any initial cards dealt to a player are face-down.

Claim 50 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which some of the initial cards dealt to a player are face-up and some are face-down.

Claim 51 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which an initial card is dealt to a player and, if the dealer's card matches any pre-determined cards or values, a second card is dealt.

Claim 52 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which an initial card is dealt to a player and, if the dealer's card is a "9" of any suit, a second card is dealt.

Claim 53 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which one card is dealt to the dealer.

Claim 54 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which any initial cards dealt to the dealer are face-up.

Claim 55 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which any initial cards dealt to the dealer are face-down.

Claim 56 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which some of the initial cards dealt to the dealer are face-up and some are face-down.

Claim 57 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which an initial card is dealt to the dealer and, if the dealer's card matches any pre-determined cards or values, a second card is dealt.

Claim 58 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a first card is dealt to the dealer and, if the dealer's card is a "9" of any suit, a second card is dealt.

Claim 59 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a first initial unknown shared card is dealt and, if the dealer's card matches any pre-determined cards or values, a second unknown shared card is dealt.

Claim 60 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a first initial unknown shared card is dealt and, if the dealer's card is a "9" of any suit, a second unknown shared card is dealt.

Claim 61 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which all shared cards are unknown and dealt face-down.

Claim 62 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which at least one of the shared

cards is unknown and dealt face-down.

Claim 63 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may elect to receive

additional cards until the hand count equals or exceed a pre-determined

maximum value.

5   Claim 64 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may elect to receive

additional cards until the hand count equals or exceed a value of 21.

Claim 65 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may elect to receive

additional cards regardless of any adjustments to the wager.

Claim 66 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may only receive a

10   fixed number of additional cards following an adjustment to the wager.

Claim 67 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may only receive one

additional card following an adjustment to the wager.

Claim 68 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager

by electing to receive at least one additional card.

15   Claim 69 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager

up to double the amount previously wagered by electing to receive at least

one additional card.

Claim 70 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager

up to triple the amount previously wagered by electing to receive at least

20   one additional card.

Claim 71 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager

by electing to receive at least one additional card until the hand count

equals or exceed a pre-determined maximum value.

Claim 72 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager by electing to receive at least one additional card until the hand count equals or exceed a value of 21.

Claim 73 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which a player may adjust the wager without electing to receive additional cards.

Claim 74 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which the dealer receives additional cards until the hand count equals or exceed a pre-determined maximum value.

Claim 75 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which the dealer receives additional cards until the hand count equals or exceed a value of 9.

Claim 76 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which cards are dealt from one or more standard deck of 52 cards comprised of four cards of 13 ranks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace, with a player's hand count calculated by:

(a) counting 2 through 10 cards at face value;

(b) counting Jack, Queen, and King cards as ten; and

(c) counting Ace cards as one or eleven.

Claim 77 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which cards are dealt from one or more standard deck of 52 cards comprised of four cards of 13 ranks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace, with a dealer's hand count calculated by:

(a) counting 2 through 10 cards at face value;

(b) counting Jack, Queen, and King cards as ten; and

(c) counting Ace cards as one or eleven.

Claim 78 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which cards are dealt from one or more standard deck of 52 cards comprised of four cards of 13 ranks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace, with a dealer's hand count calculated by:

(a) counting 2 through 10 cards at face value;

(b) counting Jack, Queen, and King cards as ten; and

(c) counting Ace cards as eleven if possible to do so without exceeding a hand count of 21, or otherwise counting the Ace as one.

Claim 79 (New).   A method of Claims 1 in which player and dealer cards are dealt from the same one or more decks of cards.

Claim 80 (New).   A method of Claims 1 in which player and dealer cards are dealt from different decks of cards.

Claim 81 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which the comparison of a player's hand count with the dealer's hand count results in the following outcomes:

(a) If a player has a higher hand count than the dealer without busting, the player beats the dealer;

(b) If the dealer has a higher hand count than a player without busting, the player loses to the dealer;

(c) If a player busts, the player loses to the dealer regardless of the dealer's hand count;

(d) If the dealer busts and a player does not bust, the player beats the dealer; and

(e) If a player and dealer have the same hand count, the player and dealer tie unless the hand count is twenty-one and one of the two hands is comprised of two cards in which case a two card twenty-one beats any other hand count of twenty-one.

Claim 82 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which the comparison of a player's hand count with the dealer's hand count results in the following outcomes:

(a) If a player has a higher hand count than the dealer without busting, the player beats the dealer;

(b) If the dealer has a higher hand count than a player without busting, the player loses to the dealer;

(c) If a player busts, the player loses to the dealer regardless of the dealer's hand count;

(d) If the dealer busts and a player does not bust, the player beats the dealer; and

(e) If a player and dealer have the same hand count, the player loses to the dealer.

Claim 83 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which awards issue for all winning player hands in accordance with the following pay schedule:

(a) Two cards with a hand count of twenty-one pays three-to-two odds;

and

(b) All other hands pay one-to-one odds.

Claim 84 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which awards issue for all player

5   hands that beat the dealer hand, in accordance with the following pay

schedule:

(a) Two cards with a hand count of twenty-one pays six-to-five odds; and

(b) All other hands pay one-to-one odds.

(c) A method of claim 45 in which awards issue for all player hands that

10   beat the dealer hand such that the odds paid on the initial wager are

the same as the odds paid for any subsequent wagers.

Claim 85 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which awards issue for all player

hands that beat the dealer hand, in accordance with the following pay

schedule:

15   (a) Two cards with a hand count of twenty-one pays six-to-five odds; and

(b) All other hands pay one-to-one odds.

Claim 86 (New).   A method of claim 45 in which awards issue for all player

hands that beat the dealer hand such that the odds paid on the initial

wager are different than the odds paid for any subsequent wagers.

20   Claim 87 (New).   A method of playing a modified twenty-one game between at

least one player and a dealer using one or more decks of cards and a

table layout having a playing surface with a dealer position, a plurality of

player positions, and a shared card position, comprising the steps of:

(a) each player placing an initial wager between the maximum and minimum wager levels set by the gaming establishment to participate in the game;

(b) dealing one card face-up to each player at the player's position;

(c) dealing one card face-up to the dealer at the dealer's position;

(d) dealing one unknown card face-down to the shared card position and, if the dealer's card is a "9" of any suit, dealing a second unknown shared card face-down to the shared card position;

(e) dealing any number of additional cards to players electing to receive more cards, regardless of any adjustments to the wager, until a player's hand count equals or exceeds a value of 21;

(f) allowing players to adjust the wager up to triple the amount wagered prior to receiving an additional card until the player's hand count equals or exceeds a value of 21;

(g) dealing additional cards to the dealer until the dealer's hand count equals or exceeds a value of 9;

(h) revealing the shared cards after all player and dealer decisions are completed;

(i) calculating the hand count of each player's hand using the card values dealt to the player and the total value of the shared cards, with all cards dealt from one or more standard deck of 52 cards comprised of

four cards of 13 ranks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and

Ace, such that:

    i.   2 through 10 cards count at face value;

    ii.   Jack, Queen, and King cards count as ten; and

    iii.   Ace cards count as one or eleven.

(j) calculating the hand count of the dealer's hand using the card values

dealt to the player and the total value of the shared cards, with all

cards dealt from the same one or more standard deck of 52 cards used

by the players and comprised of four cards of 13 ranks: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,

8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace, such that:

    i.   2 through 10 cards count at face value;

    ii.   Jack, Queen, and King cards count as ten; and

    iii.   Ace cards count as eleven if possible to do so without

exceeding a hand count of 21, or otherwise Ace cards count as

one.

(k) comparing the hand count of each player's hand to the hand count of

the dealer's hand to determine one of the following outcomes:

    i.   If a player has a higher hand count than the dealer without

busting, the player beats the dealer;

    ii.   If the dealer has a higher hand count than a player without

busting, the player loses to the dealer;

    iii. If a player busts, the player loses to the dealer regardless of the dealer's hand count;

    iv. If the dealer busts and a player does not bust, the player beats the dealer; and

    v. If a player and dealer have the same hand count, the player and dealer tie unless the hand count is twenty-one and one of the two hands is comprised of two cards in which case a two card twenty-one beats any other hand count of twenty-one.

(l) issuing awards to each player beating the dealer, in accordance with the following pay schedule:

    i. Two cards with a hand count of twenty-one pays three-to-two odds on the entire wager; and

    ii. All other hands pay one-to-one odds on the entire wager.

Claim 88 (New).   A method of playing a modified twenty-one game between at least one player and a dealer using one or more decks of cards and a table layout having a playing surface with a dealer position, a plurality of player positions, and a shared card position, in which the dealer and players use the total value of one or more shared cards to calculate the values of their hands, with the values of said shared cards remaining unknown until all player and/or dealer decisions are completed.